

March 7, 1978

LB 282, 889

PRESIDENT: The House is under Call. All Senators return to your desks and record your presence. We are under Call. Please record your presence. Please record your presence. We are under Call and we will commence the roll when the membership is in its place. We are under Call. He asked for a roll call Senator Maxey. Senator Burrows, would you record your presence. Senator Koch, would you record your presence.

CLERK: Roll call vote. 20 ayes, 23 nays, 1 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting. Vote appears on page 1111-1112 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails to advance. Senator Koch asks that the Call be raised. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 0 nays to raise the Call Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Call is raised. LB 889.

CLERK: Read LB 889.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. The purpose of LB 889 is to bring about early intervention in terms of education and help for those children below the age of five, those children who have at least two handicapping conditions. We have presently twelve programs in the State of Nebraska that have been model programs under Title VI monies that unless the state, and we as a group of legislators, decide that we are going to continue these programs these types of children will be without that opportunity. We are talking about children who have definite handicapping conditions. There are federal monies which are available which naturally would have to be matched with state appropriations and I will speak to that at a later issue. The issue before us now is basically one of helping young people at the earliest age possible. Presently the State of Nebraska is appropriating a large amount of money to work with handicapping conditions. Oftentimes, it is like many other things that we do in this body we spend the money at the wrong end of the totem pole and seldom place the money at the beginning where indeed help and opportunities will prevail. The benefits will be derived not only to those young people which we are referring to, but to society in general. So, LB 889 allows the schools to establish these programs for the purpose of bringing about early intervention of education for children, as I said, with two or more handicapping conditions. The program is voluntary for children and for the parents. The cost, we are hopeful will be picked up by a combination of federal dollars and state appropriations to meet the obligation. We are talking in the neighborhood of 650 to 720 children. Before these children will be admitted to the program, they will go through a screening process. The screening board is made up of staff of the Meyer Children Rehabilitation Center, the Office of Mental Retardation, Children and Youth Committee, the Department of Education and the Welfare Department. If the diagnosis is such that these children are in need of early intervention help, then the child will be placed in the programs either sponsored by the school system, depending upon its size or a